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BELORUSSIAN SSR NEEDS MORE DOCTOR-SPECIALISTS

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Recent surveys have shown that the greatest obstacle to effective medical aid for Belorussian SSR inhabitants is the lack of competent specialists. It was noted that only six or seven of the rayons in the oblast were staffed with surgeons, obstetricians, gynecologists, and other specialists.

The Ministry of Public Health, Belorussian SSR, has made plans for improving the situation: the rapid unification of hospitals and polyclinics as a means for an equitable distribution of specialists. It has been suggested that all large hospitals conduct courses under the leadership of a competent specialist to give young doctors the benefit of experience. Due to the great demand for specialists, the Ministry recommended a twofold increase in the number of institutions offering this type of training. Some of the training plans have already been put into effect.

The Ministry also recommended a plan whereby doctors assigned to rayon hospitals be certified as specialists in two different fields.

Minsk has been unable to contribute in any large amount because a third of its medical facilities were destroyed in the war and are still being rebuilt. However, temporary measures are being taken, and it is believed that within 3 months Minsk Oblast will be cooperating 100 percent in the specialist training plan.

One of the most serious problems is that municipal doctors proved rather unsuccessful in the control of epidemics and are incompetent in proper diagnosis of infectious diseases and in employing epidemiological measures. As a result, a plan has been instituted whereby each hospital chief is required to spend 2-3 months in some department of infectious diseases to study the various aspects of infectious diseases and their control.

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The oblast public health department also considered plans for improved antituberculosis work, which, upon completion, will place means for tuberculosis control in each rayon center and in each agricultural settlement.

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